

Serial No.: 10/091,938
Atty Dckt: MIO 0092 PA

Remarks

Claims 43-61 were withdrawn from this application due to a restriction requirement, and are now canceled without prejudice. By this response, claims 1, 8, 9, 10, and 33 are amended. Accordingly, claims 1-42 are pending in this application.

The abstract, title, and specification were objected to for the reasons noted in the Official Action. In view of the above noted restriction requirement and objections, both the title and abstract, have been amended, thereby overcome the noted objections.

With regard to the objection to the specification, the Applicant wishes to point out that on page 4, paragraph 9, it is stated that the patent application is commonly assigned. Accordingly, withdraw of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons noted in the official action. The rejected claims are accordingly amended, by the above claim amendments, and the presently pending claims are now believed to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention, thereby overcoming all of the raised § 112, second paragraph, rejections.

Claims 1-42 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakuma et al (5,270,247) in view of Marsh et al (US 6,461,909). In view of this rejection, the Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 10, and 33 to recite features neither taught nor suggested by the cited prior art. The Applicant notes Sakuma et al. teaches supplying a first source gas and discharging it before supplying the second source gas (col. 2, lines 54-58). Marsh in regards to atomic layer deposition also discloses pumping out the reaction gas before repeating the process (col. 6, lines 24-30). Therefore, the combined teachings of Sakuma and Marsh fail to teach or suggest providing the input gas simultaneously with the precursor gas. As such a feature is now recited by amended claims 1, 10, and 33, claims 1-43 are believed allowable over the cited art. Support for the above amendments is provided for by the specification and drawings; no new matter has been entered.

The Applicant notes the remaining prior art cited in the official action. As none of that additional art is applied by the Examiner against the claims of this application, the Applicant is not providing any comments concerning the same at this time.

The Applicant respectfully submits that, in view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the

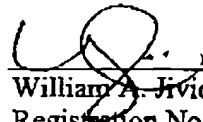
Serial No.: 10/091,938
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undersigned to resolve efficiently any formal matters or to discuss any aspects of the application or of this response. Otherwise, early notification of allowable subject matter is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

DINSMORE & SHOHL LLP

By


William A. Jividen
Registration No. 42,695

One Dayton Centre
One South Main Street, Suite 500
Dayton, Ohio 45402-2023
Telephone: (937) 223-2050
Facsimile: (937) 223-0724
e-mail: william.jividen@dinslaw.com
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